

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the through consideration given the present application. Claim 1 and 3-19 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks set forth hereinbelow.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged the Examiner has recognized the Applicant's claim for foreign priority. Because the Applicant's claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

DRAWINGS

It is gratefully acknowledged the Examiner has approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicant. The drawings comply with the requirements of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. No further action is necessary.

SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT CHANGES

The specification and abstract have been amended to correct minor informalities. For example, the specification and abstract have been amended to change the term "winker" to "blinker." Other minor changes have also been made. A marked-up and clean copy of the substitute specification are enclosed. No new matter has been added.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on October 7, 2005. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received from the Examiner. Note, another IDS is being filed with this Amendment and includes only the European Office

(EPO) Action because the references cited in the EPO Action are the same as filed in the previous IDS.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §102

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Lakosky. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter similar to that as recited in dependent claim 2 and is directed to a combination of elements wherein a lamp apparatus for a vehicle includes a body frame having a lamp unit including a supporting member in which the lamp unit has a light emitting diode as a light source in a lamp body. The lamp apparatus also includes a voltage adjustment means for adjusting a voltage to be applied to the light emitting diode. Further, according to the embodiment set forth in claim 1, the voltage adjustment means is provided separately outside said lamp body and is attached to the supporting member.

The Office Action indicates Lakosky teaches a voltage adjustment means 69 being attached to a supporting member 10 on which a lamp unit 24 is supported. However, it is respectfully noted the supporting member 10 in Lakosky is actually the snowmobile itself and does not correspond to the claimed lamp apparatus of the present invention.

According, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably define over Lakosky.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §102

Claims 3-13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Lakosky in view of Meggs et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 7 is directed to a combination of elements wherein a blinker apparatus for a vehicle includes a blinker having a light emitting diode as a light source in a lamp body, and a voltage adjustment means for adjusting a voltage to be applied to the light emitting diode. Further, the voltage adjustment means is integrally provided in a blinker relay separately from the lamp body. These features are supported at least by Figures 8 and 9 and paragraph [00079].

The Office Action indicates that although Lakosky does not teach a voltage adjustment means positioned within a relay apparatus, Meggs et al. teaches a lamp relay 48 and a voltage adjustment means (R_n) provided within the lamp relay apparatus and cites Figure 8. However, the resistors R₂, R₄, etc. in the relay apparatus in Meggs et al. are provided in the circuit of Figure 8, but are not integrally provided as claimed by the present invention.

Further, independent claim 13 includes to a combination of elements and is directed to a lamp apparatus for a vehicle wherein a light emitting diode is used as a light source. The lamp apparatus includes a lamp body case formed from a member having a high heat transfer property. Further, the light emitting diode is attached to part of the lamp body case.

The Office Action relies on Meggs et al. as teaching a lamp case made of a member 10 having a high heat transfer property. However, the member 10 is a mounting bracket and not a lamp case. In Figures 1 and 2 of Meggs et al., the lamp case is an elongated flexible waterproof

housing member 4. Applicants respectfully submit the housing member 4 is not a high heat transfer property because it is a flexible member.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 7 and 13 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

Claims 14-16 and 19 stand rejected on 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lakosky in view of Meggs et al. and Bischoff. This rejection is respectively transverse.

Similar comments apply to independent claim 14 as discussed above with respect to independent claim 13 and Meggs et al. Further, Bischoff also do not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 14 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

Further, it is respectfully submitted the rejection of claims 17 and 18 under 35 USC § 103(a) noted in the Office Action has also been overcome as these claims are dependent claims and the additional reference Serizawa also does not teach or suggest the claimed features nor the combinations thereof.

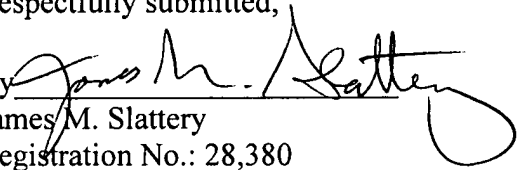
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone David A. Bilodeau at (703) 205-8072 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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